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WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION[®]
MAGAZINE

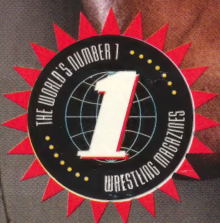
OWEN SEASON!



OWEN HART

DECEMBER 1997

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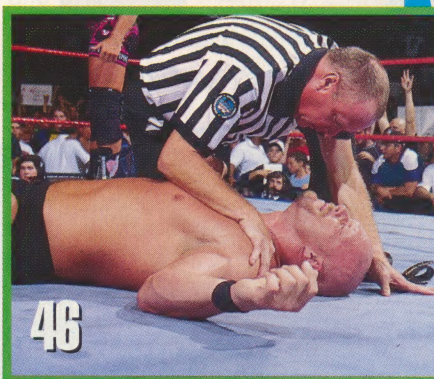
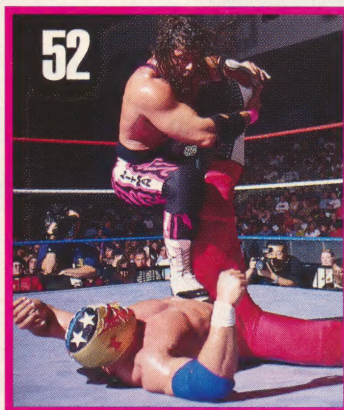
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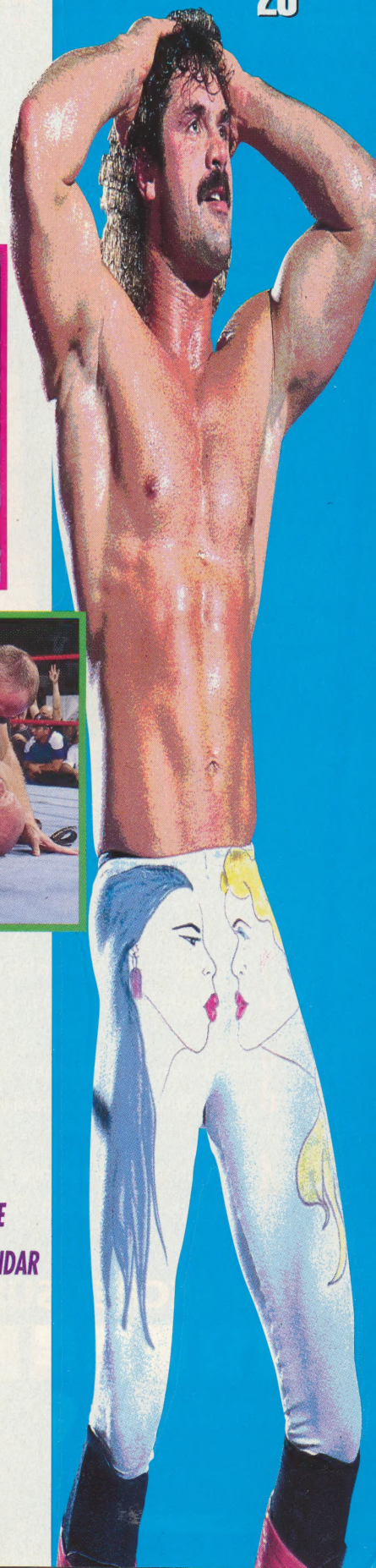
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FEDERATION FANatics



Sarah Young

Name: Sarah Young

Age: 10

Hometown: Vinton, Iowa

School: Lincoln Intermediate Center

Grade: Fifth

Future Ambition: To become a World Wrestling Federation manager

Favorite Federation Superstar: The Legion of Doom

Least Favorite Federation Superstar: Stone Cold Steve Austin

What I like best about the World Wrestling Federation: Watching RAW IS WAR

If I were president of the World Wrestling Federation, I would: Suspend every superstar who breaks the rules for one week.

What I do when I'm not watching the World Wrestling Federation: I play with my puppy.

Name: Jose Irizarry

Age: 13

Hometown: Yonkers, New York

School: Museum Junior High School

Grade: Seventh

Future Ambition: To become the next World Wrestling Federation Champion

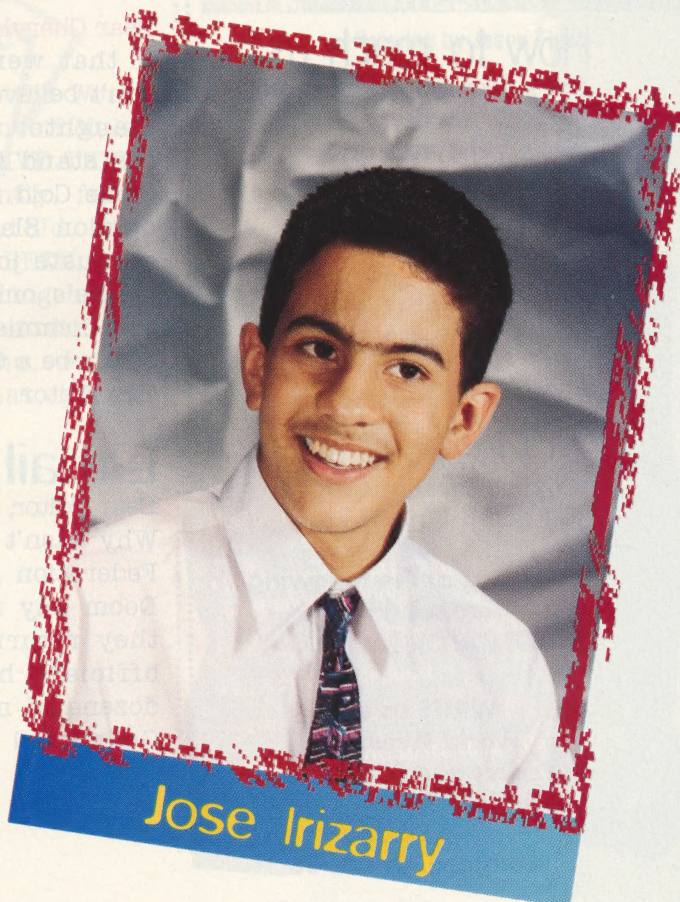
Favorite Federation Superstar: The Undertaker

Least Favorite Federation Superstar: Hunter Hearst-Helmsley

What I like best about the World Wrestling Federation: The King of the Ring tournament

If I were president of the World Wrestling Federation, I would: Bring more Pay-Per-Views to Madison Square Garden.

What I do when I'm not watching the World Wrestling Federation: I play sports and hang out with my friends.



Jose Irizarry

Dear Andy

YES—there will be a tournament to crown a World Wrestling Federation Light Heavyweight Champion. In my opinion, I would look for the finals to take place some time around WrestleMania XIV.

The Editor

Fax

Dear Editor,

I just finished watching RAW IS WAR here in Canada, and I noticed the American fans throwing cups and spitting at the Hart Foundation. In my country, the Patriot is the most hated wrestler in the World Wrestling Federation, but we control ourselves and never throw things at him. The fans pay their money to voice their opinions, not to be abusive! Why can't the Americans follow our example? Blair Tugwood
Winnipeg, Manitoba, CAN

Dear Blair,

With all due respect, when I attended RAW IS WAR in Canada, there were so many objects flying into the ring that I myself could have used a RICK RUDE Accident Insurance Policy! Although the fans have NO BUSINESS throwing ANYTHING at the superstar, the Canucks have been just as guilty as the Americans!

Letter

Dear Editor,

After reading the article on Ken Shamrock in the October issue of the World Wrestling Federation Magazine, I think it's about time officials found an opponent tough enough to fight him! I just don't see anyone in the Federation stopping him, so why don't you bring in more Ultimate Fighting Championship competitors? At least they could handle a bloody nose or a few cracked ribs! When Dan Severn was on RAW IS WAR a few months ago, why didn't the Federation try to sign him then?

Dave Parker
San Jose, California

Dear Dave,

Rather than criticize the World Wrestling Federation officials, maybe you should GIVE THEM A CHANCE!! Currently, from what I am being told, the "Titan brass" HAVE BEEN, and STILL ARE, considering bringing in talent from the ultimate fighting world! Who, where and when? For that, you'll have to stay tuned!



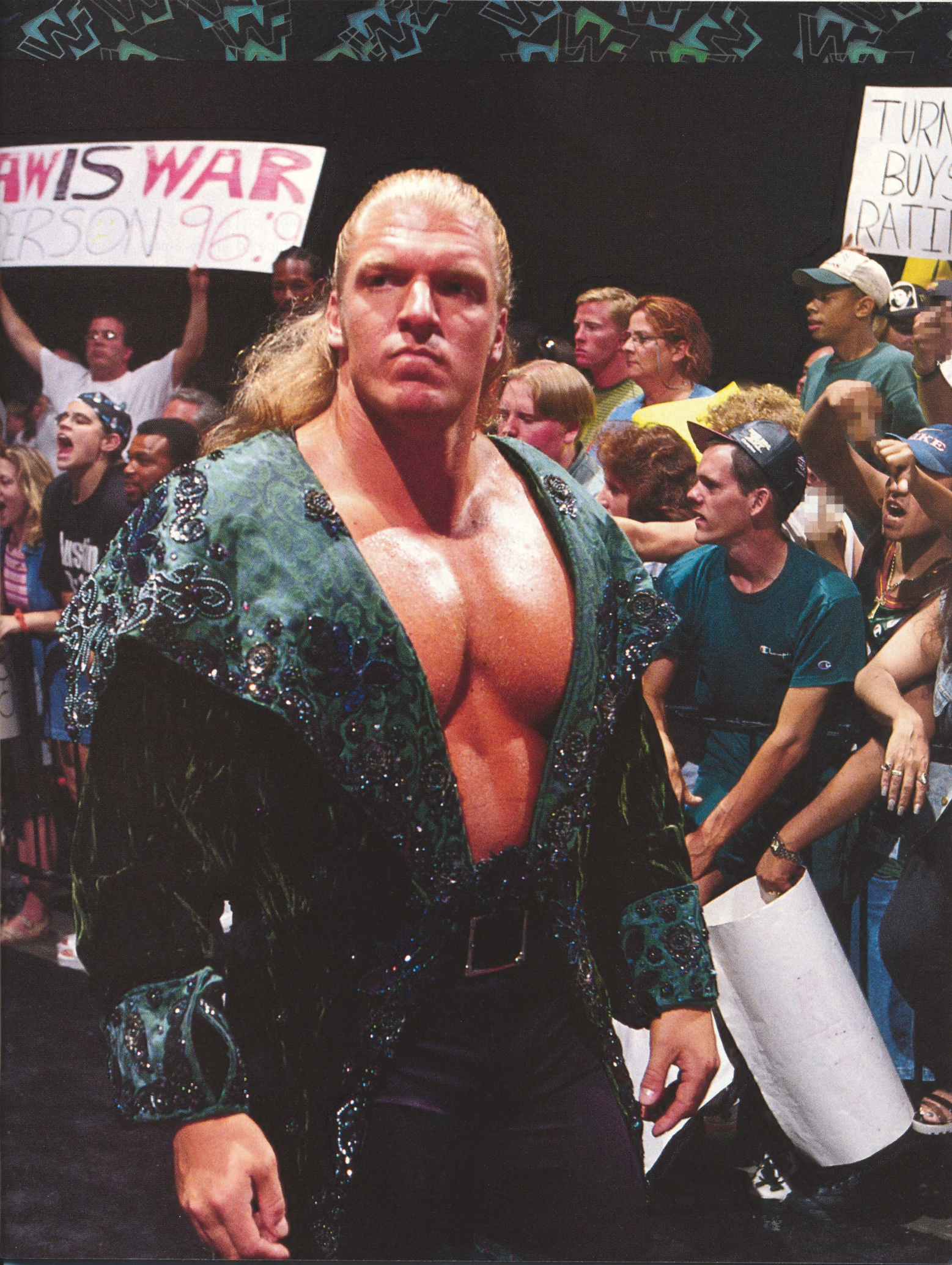
Drawing by Jason Finch

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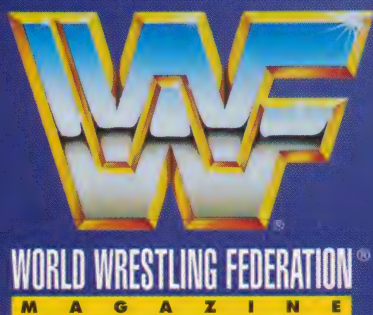
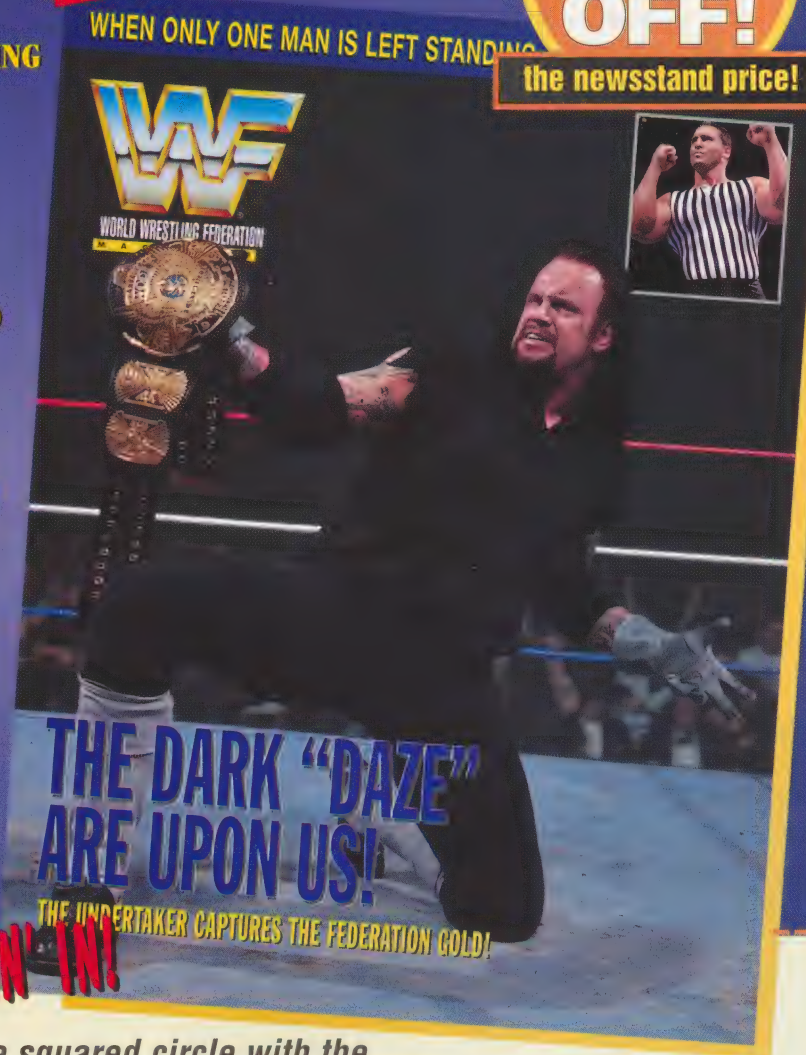
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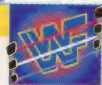
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all you need to know



TALES FROM THE TURNBUCKLE

THE STUN HEARD 'ROUND THE WORLD!

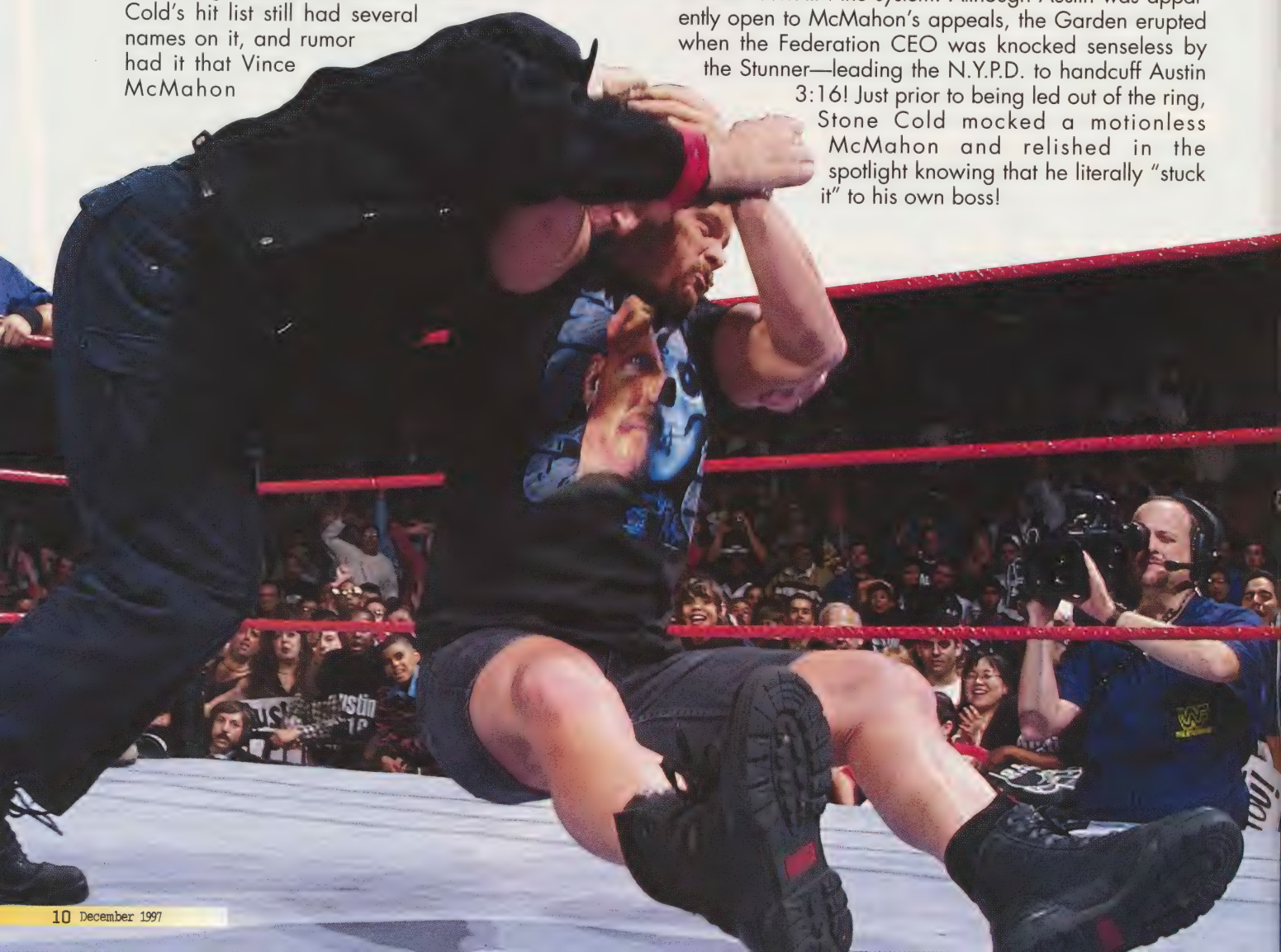
Several weeks ago, Commissioner Slaughter announced on live television that he would be suspending Stone Cold Steve Austin's wrestling license in an effort to keep the former Intercontinental Champion from possibly ending his own career with the threat of another neck injury. What followed was a seemingly senseless massacre of Stone Cold Stunners headed up by the Federation's toughest S.O.B. on any official—or superstar—who dared get in his face! Jim Ross was the first to suffer the blunt end of such an assault at Ground Zero, followed by Slaughter the very next night on *RAW IS WAR*. One week later, Jerry "The King" Lawler almost had to have his face "surgically removed" from the canvas after Austin vented his rage on the Memphis native.

Following this string of battering, fans of the World Wrestling Federation knew Stone Cold's hit list still had several names on it, and rumor had it that Vince McMahon

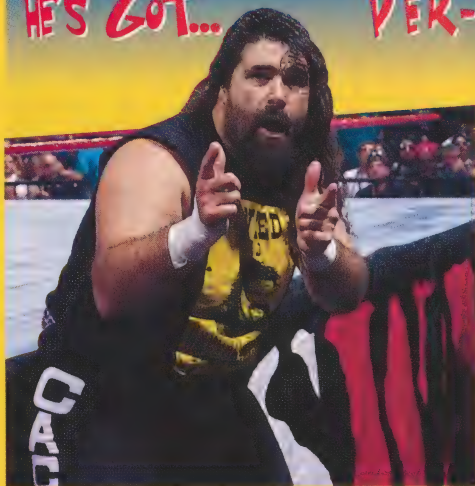
was due for a dose of Austin 3:16! Opting to keep his health in check, Vince distanced himself from Stone Cold despite a downpour of verbal harassment from the "Rattlesnake"—that is, until McMahon couldn't take it anymore!

At the recent *RAW IS WAR* from Madison Square Garden, Owen Hart defeated Brian Pillman by disqualification due to outside interference by Goldust... and the Slammy Award winner chose the opportunity to rub it in the faces of his critics. However, Austin burst out of the audience and broke up the celebration—pummeling Hart in the process. After a host of "New York's finest" separated the brawlers, McMahon apparently lost all restraint and confronted Stone Cold in an attempt to drive some sense into his head. Vince pleaded with him to think about his future and just "try" to work WITHIN the system! Although Austin was apparently open to McMahon's appeals, the Garden erupted when the Federation CEO was knocked senseless by the Stunner—leading the N.Y.P.D. to handcuff Austin

3:16! Just prior to being led out of the ring, Stone Cold mocked a motionless McMahon and relished in the spotlight knowing that he literally "stuck it" to his own boss!



HE'S GOT... PERSONALITY!!!



deemed it necessary to find the "suitable man" to compete in the match against the Greenwich Snob. Their choice? None other than the Death Match Champion from Truth or Consequences, New Mexico! Yes, Cactus Jack was reborn!

Prior to entering the arena, Cactus apparently gathered up a variety of weapons he would use in the match, ranging from a shovel to a trash can. Hunter,

On September's RAW IS WAR from New York City's Madison Square Garden, World Wrestling Federation officials hoped to put to rest the aggressive feud between Hunter Hearst-Helmsley and Mick Foley—the superstar also known as Dude Love and Mankind. However, instead of ending the war, officials may have been responsible for grinding the gears of Foley's mind back into his former persona of Cactus Jack!

That night, Dude was inked to step into the "Falls Count Anywhere" match with the Greenwich Snob, but the curtain failed to part when Love's name was announced. Seconds later, an image appeared on the giant overhead Titantron—featuring two chairs that Dude and Mankind would soon sit on! Their conversation was one of confusion, as the two superstars

who was screaming at every Federation official within distance, had no choice but to tangle with this latest—and perhaps most aggressive—alter ego! What followed was an onslaught the 1997 King of the Ring never could have prepared for, as both superstars tangled throughout the arena—with Chyna in tow. Perhaps out of desperation, Hunter produced a wooden table and attempted to execute a Pedigree, but the move backfired in his face when Cactus instead cracked his opponent's head through the board with a piledriver! After suffering that devastating assault, Hunter was out cold as the referee registered a count in favor of the reborn Death Match Champion! Exclusive photos from this melee will be available in the January issue of the RAW Magazine!

Quote of the month

"Hunter Hearst-Helmsley, it's gonna be your darkest day yet in the World Wrestling Federation, because Mrs. Foley's little boy is back home in New York City and Cactus Jack is alive and well!"

—Cactus Jack, just prior to his "rebirth" at the recent RAW IS WAR in New York's Madison Square Garden

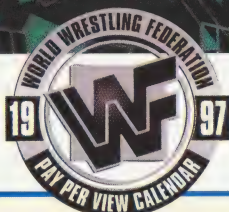
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- 24 Fayetteville, NC (RAW IS WAR)
- 25 Roanoke, VA (RAW IS WAR)
- 28 Cleveland, OH
- 29 Boston, MA
- 30 Niagara Falls, NY

December

- 1 Syracuse, NY
- 6 Providence, RI
- 7 Springfield, MA (IN YOUR HOUSE)
- 8 Portland, ME (RAW IS WAR)
- 9 Durham, NH (RAW IS WAR)
- 10 Bangor, ME
- 11 Lowell, MA
- 12 Chattanooga, TN
- 13 Nashville, TN
- 14 Memphis, TN
- 15 Little Rock, AR



Dec. 7—In Your House (Springfield, MA)

Jan. 18—Royal Rumble (San Jose, CA)

Feb. 15—In Your House (Houston, TX)

HOW TO ORDER PAY-PER-VIEW

Call your local cable company. Your cable operator will have specific information on how to order and the cost of each event. You can also check your last month's cable bill for a special ordering phone number for your system's pay-per-view events.

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C-Band dishes, call:

Prime Time 24 —1-800-989-7526

For direct satellite reception, via the smaller

KU-Band dishes, call:

Direct TV — 1-800-347-3288

1) All events are on Sunday at 7pm ET.

2) Replays for all *In Your House* events at 10pm ET.

3) Encores for all five other events are the Tuesday following the event.

The times of the encores are 8pm and 11pm ET.

MORE FREEBIES

DeGeneration X In Your House

The first 2,500 cable or satellite customers to send in copies of their cable bills showing purchase of December's *DeGeneration X In Your House* will receive a free gift from the World Wrestling Federation (retail value \$5.00- \$25.00). The bill MUST be received by February 27, 1998, and must show proof of purchase!

All bills should be sent to:

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Rockville Center, NY
11571- 5448**

To celebrate this historic moment, Venom is making the first monthly issue a COLLECTOR'S item! TWO SEPARATE covers will be printed for the January *RAW Magazine*—one featuring SUNNY and another sporting SABLE! And as an added treat, the covers are sure to warm up your winter chills as the lovely ladies of the Federation will not only be modeling the HOTTEST bikinis on the front, but also on the INSIDE! So, you can try to live with yourself knowing you were able to get your hands on just ONE of the copies... OR GO OUT AND FIND THE OTHER TO SHOW OFF TO YOUR FRIENDS!

If your newsstand doesn't carry *RAW Magazine* by now, tell them to put it on their shelves. If not, you might miss the chance to own both Sunny AND Sable issues! Look for the monthly premiere of *RAW Magazine* with the EXCLUSIVE double-cover on sale December 30!!

FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T GET ENOUGH... **RAW MAGAZINE** GOES MONTHLY!

In May 1996, wrestling fans welcomed with open arms the premiere issue of *RAW Magazine*—the hard-hitting and controversial bimonthly for mature audiences that explored every facet of the world of sports-entertainment! Since that time, the sister magazine of the *World Wrestling Federation Magazine* has toppled any barrier in order to "shoot from the hip" on a variety of topics, while at the same time garnering tremendous respect worldwide from wrestling insiders.

Within months, fans couldn't get enough of *RAW Magazine* and subsequently flooded Titan Tower in Stamford, Connecticut, with calls, faxes, e-mails and letters demanding that their favorite publication go monthly! After numerous closed-door meetings, the time has come to announce that not only will *RAW Magazine* grant fans their wish beginning with the January issue, but controversial writer VICTOR VENOMECCCHI, a/k/a VIC VENOM, will TAKE OVER as Editor-in-Chief!!

"You haven't seen controversy yet, Machine-Gun Face," Venom told cub reporter Bill Banks about his new role as *RAW* editor. "Believe me, my staff of writers will have Spaldings!!! This isn't gonna be some magazine full of fluff and kid's stuff like some so-called geniuses wish it could be! It will be in your face like never before and if they don't like it, they can kiss my @\$#!!"

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT and CIRCULATION

(Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

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I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

Vince Russo,
Editor-in-Chief

In a mystical land far away, the ancient
 "I call for a great tournament to be held. Let us



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Karate FIGHTERS

MORPHING ACTION!

From October 20th through December 14th, an eight week Milton Bradley Karate Fighters Holiday Tournament will take place between select World Wrestling Federation Superstars. These Federation Superstars will compete using the awesome new line of Karate Fighters called Electronic Karate Fighters with Morphing Action! Eight Federation Superstars will compete against each other and only the best Karate Fighter will survive the competition. Watch the World Wrestling Federation on USA Network, or your local television station, or check out the World Wrestling Federation area on America Online for more details and updates.



Unbelievable!

RAZORJAW

Razorjaw's bite is worse than his bark. He becomes nearly invincible when he morphs into a fearsome fanged fighter.











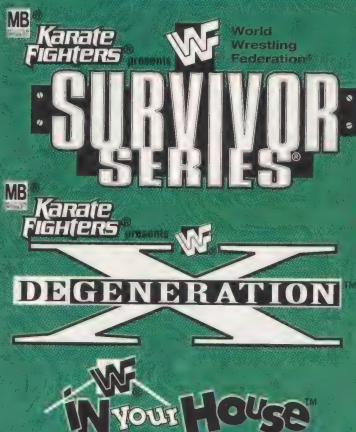
Unstoppable!


SUN WARRIOR

The Sun Warrior is hot stuff! He fights fire with fire and his opponents are no match for his explosive energy and scalding breath.

Quarter Finals

-  SUPERSTAR (A)
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-  SUPERSTAR (H)



Sensei calls his disciples before him. He says, see **who is the greatest** KARATE FIGHTER of all the ."

October 20 - December 14, 1997

Holiday Tournament

SATURDAY/SUNDAY Shotgun - check local listings
 SATURDAY @ 10 AM/9C Live Wire on the USA Network
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 MONDAY @ 8:57 PM/7:57C Raw Is War on the USA Network
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Below is a grid you can fill out to keep track of the winners in this exciting Karate Fighters Holiday Tournament.



Uncontrollable!

SERPENT STRIKE

Serpent Strike reaches out to friends in need, but strong-arms his enemies. His morphing serpent arms protect him from the fiercest foes.

This awesome fighter clawed his way to the top! Beware! He is armed and dangerous! His menacing appendages strike terror in all who oppose him.

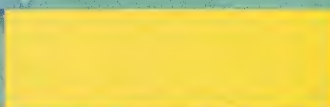
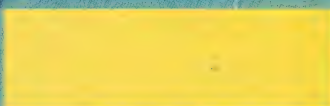
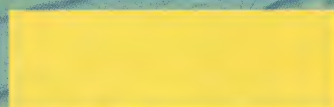
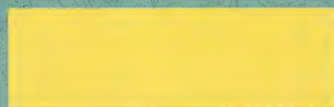
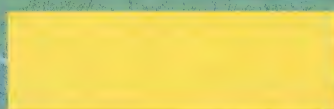
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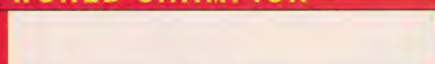
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SEMI-FINALS

FINALS



MILTON BRADLEY
 KARATE FIGHTERS
 WORLD CHAMPION



BENEATH THE SKIN



THE PATRIOT

AN INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY VINCE RUSSO (PART 1)

Who would have ever thought that in the midst of a "troubled" 1997 society, a masked man waving a red, white and blue flag would ever get over?

Not I.

Face it, the World Wrestling Federation had seen it all before, AND during times when it was "fashionable" to be patriotic. It all began in the early '80s with Sgt. Slaughter. Next came the *WrestleMania* years and Mike Rotundo and Barry Windham's U.S. Express. That was then followed by Corporal Kirchner—a guy who never quite lived up to his potential—and last but not least, arguably the most successful patriot of all—the lumber-wielding Hacksaw Jim Duggan. (I dare not include the Lex Express. The wheels blew out on that bad boy before it even hit Interstate-95!) With the possible exception of Kirchner, all these athletes would have made Uncle Sam proud. They all took a heroic stand for truth, justice and the American way. They all were the "soldiers of the people." But that was then... and this is now. In 1997, you just can't sell the fans heroes, let alone "super" heroes, and on the surface—that's what Del Wilkes appeared to be.

Draped in old glory, the Patriot arrived on the scene just in time to fight the battle against America's evil (though not mighty) nemesis—Canada and its number one villain, Bret Hart. Even though a phone booth had nothing to do with the open—we had all seen this before. Or... so we thought. Historically, when was the last time a "super hero" let his true identity be known? I mean, Aunt Harriet didn't even know that her nephew Bruce was prancing around as the "Caped Crusader" by night!!! Upon his arrival, the Patriot made it clear that his name was Del Wilkes, and that as a man... he was no different from you—and me. Even though he was a gifted athlete—a stand-out football player at the University of South Carolina—he never "guaranteed"

the fans victory; all he "guaranteed" was that he would give 100 percent each time out. And thus far, he has.

In this day and age, it's hard to believe, but Del Wilkes IS the real deal. Both a dedicated husband and a loving father, he thrives on setting an example for others by simply being the best that he can be—and that's all anybody can ask of anyone. Sometimes it's not all about winning and losing, but rather living up to your responsibilities and setting the standard by example. Both inside and outside the ring, Del Wilkes has accomplished that with flying red, white and blue colors!

In a world without heroes, Del Wilkes may be the next best thing.

EDITOR: Where were you born?

WILKES: I was born and bred in Columbia, South Carolina.

EDITOR: What did your parents do for a living?

WILKES: My mother ran an in-home day care for about 18 years, and my father was a farm equipment salesman for a company in my town.

EDITOR: Do you have any brothers or sisters?

WILKES: I've got a younger brother and a younger sister.

EDITOR: What kind of a kid were you? What values did your parents instill in you?

WILKES: I had fairly strict parents who raised me in a strict environment. We went to church every Sunday, and like any other kid, I was

involved with sports—primarily football. I was a sports fanatic. I wasn't very multi-dimensional in any other sport, but I did play one year of baseball. But all in all, I had a very good family, and we spent a lot of time together. We're still very tight to this day.

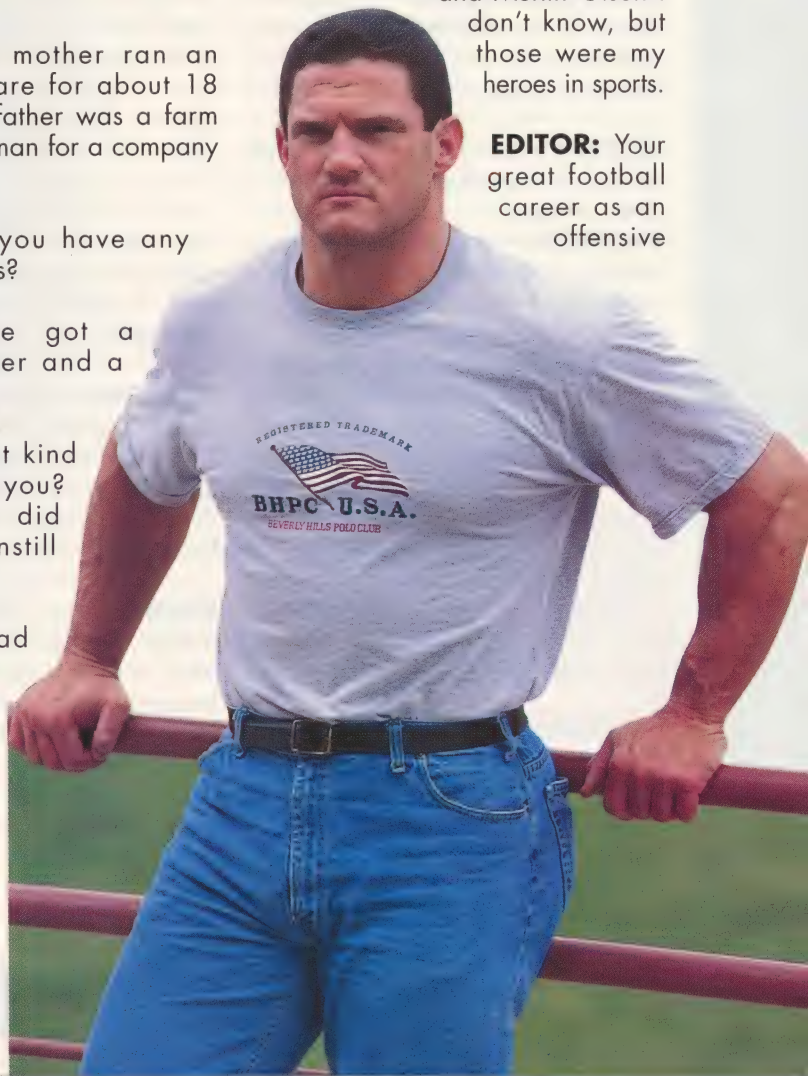
EDITOR: What kind of a student were you?

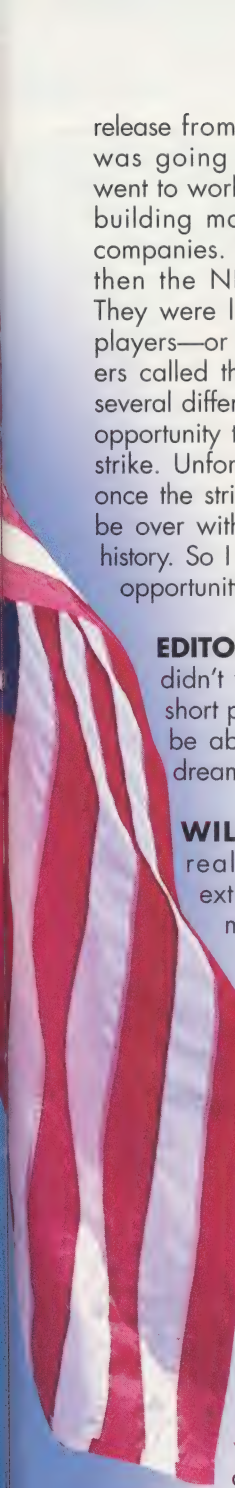
WILKES: A good student. I probably could have been a better student, but I prided myself on doing the things it took to get by in school. I was an A or B student.

EDITOR: Who were some of your role models?

WILKES: Well, once again, it all relates back to sports. Being the sports freak I was, growing up my favorite team was the Los Angeles Rams. How a kid from South Carolina connected with the Los Angeles Rams and Roman Gabriel and Merlin Olson I don't know, but those were my heroes in sports.

EDITOR: Your great football career as an offensive





release from the Falcons that that was going to be it. After that, I went to work selling equipment and building materials to construction companies. This was in 1987, and then the NFL strike came along. They were looking for replacement players—or scabs, as the NFL players called them. So I got calls from several different teams and I had the opportunity to go to play during the strike. Unfortunately, I realized that once the strike was settled, it would be over with. We would be gone... history. So I decided not to take the opportunity.

EDITOR: If that was the case, didn't you feel that even for a short period of time you would be able to fulfill the "ultimate dream"?

WILKES: At that point, I realized it would be an extreme long shot if I did make it after the strike was settled. I had built up a pretty good client base with my company, and they couldn't assure me that if I left for a long period of time my job would still be there if I needed to come back. So, it was basically a financial decision. I didn't want to risk losing my job.

EDITOR: How did you go from that point in your life to the squared circle?

WILKES: I had a friend that went to the Citadel-The Military College of South Carolina in Charleston. We both talked somewhat tongue-in-cheek about getting into wrestling. We had always gone to the matches when they came to Columbia. One day we just decided we had talked about it long enough. We were still young and had the ability, so we gave it a shot. So, there was a school there in South Carolina owned and operated by the Fabulous Moolah, one of the great

women wrestlers of all time. Unfortunately, it was more geared toward training women than men, so I didn't benefit from it that much. But, at least it was a place to start, and at the time it was the most affordable of all the schools. So, I paid my money, went there and got what training I could out of it. Basically, after that it was learn on the run. As I did it, I learned.

EDITOR: Where did you first make your pro debut?

WILKES: We were working small cards around the state, and Moolah happened to get me and Wahoo McDaniel in one of the main events. After I met Wahoo, we immediately hit it off, maybe it was the background and football, but we really hit it off. He seemed to take a liking to me and was interested in furthering my career. So, at that time he was working for Verne Gagne in the American Wrestling Association (AWA), and he told me to go up there. That was really my first experience at a bigger level. While in Minneapolis I trained with Brad Rheingans while also working some shows.

EDITOR: When, where, how and why was the Patriot born?

WILKES: That happened when the Global Wrestling Federation (GWF) started. I think it was maybe the summer of '90 or '91. They called me and told me they wanted me to be there for their first television tapings. And, about an hour before the tapings, Joe Pedicino pulled me aside and said he had an idea. Out of this box he pulled an Uncle Sam hat—which I didn't particularly like—and a red, white and blue mask along with a pair of red, white and blue tights. At that time the Persian Gulf War was going on, so I thought the timing was pretty good. I was unsure a little as to whether the character would work, but I was willing to give it a shot. That was the first time the Patriot appeared on television.

EDITOR: What was it like being the "big fish" in the "little pond" in the GWF?

WILKES: It was positive. I had an opportunity to wrestle against some top name wrestlers that I had only heard about or seen on television. It was also great exposure being on all over the country on ESPN. We really thought the GWF had a chance of making it competing against the "big two" of World Wrestling Federation and WCW. We had older guys that were on the down side of their careers, but they were still names, and they would help us draw fans. Then we had younger guys like myself that were just working their way up. We really thought it would work, but unfortunately, it didn't last very long. I enjoyed it while I was there, and it was good exposure for me while being a learning experience. After Global closed shop, I primarily worked out of Japan for Giant Baba.

EDITOR: How do you feel about those who aren't familiar with your seven years in Global and Japan and look at Del Wilkes as an overnight sensation, or a guy who hasn't paid his dues?

WILKES: It's like the old saying "out of sight, out of mind." It's hard for the American fans to see the Japanese wrestling on television here unless they can get videotapes. They never saw me, so they didn't know I existed. I paid my dues when I drove all over the South, most of the time for no payoffs and no money. Just as everyone else in this business I worked my way up. **WF**

*Next month, in Part Two
of Beneath the Skin
with the Patriot,
Del Wilkes talks about
his time in WCW, the use
of steroids in professional
sports and what it's like
to be a "good guy" in this
"Era of the Black Hat."*



...ned as history is made...

By Kevin Kelly

had an ace up his sleeve, which he dealt to the European Champion, changing the course of the battle.

As the back-and-forth match moved outside the ring, Shawn was in the clutches of a signature power move from the Bulldog when fate intervened. The champion lost his footing, and his leg was trapped between the ring-elevating platform and the security railing. While the pained expression told the story of an injured knee and change of momentum, fate would not be the only key to victory for Michaels.

Writhing in agony, the British Bulldog was beset upon by his challenger's trump card as Hunter Hearst-Helmsley, Chyna and the insurance policy of Ravishing Rick Rude stomped away at the fallen champion. The trap was set, and the Bulldog, who went into the battle alone, was now outnumbered four to one.

Sensing victory, Michaels pressed his advantage by dissecting the

weakened joint with a sadistic attack, culminating with the application of the figure-four leglock. Increasing the pain caused by the submission hold was added lever-

announcement could be made, the new champion seized the microphone and under a hail of objects thrown by the distraught crowd, taunted the Bulldog's wife until she couldn't take anymore. Diana Smith scaled the barricade, rushed the ring and valiantly went after Shawn, who had reapplied the figure-four on her fallen husband. Diana's efforts were in vain, though, as Chyna manhandled her and the attack continued. The carnage finally ended when Bret and Owen Hart ran to stop the vicious attack.

The stunned arena shrieked in horror as their favorite son had become the victim of a carefully contrived plot by the man now wearing the European Championship belt. The first man to win the Federation's "Grand Slam"—all four championships—Shawn Michaels had pulled off one of the biggest upsets in history, while the frustration continued for the Bulldog, who suffered the curse of the "Heartbreak Kid" again. **WF**

Despite the frustrating losing streak, the Bulldog entered this title match the favorite. Little did he know he was walking into an ambush.

age from the treasonous trio of conspirators, who turned the tide of this championship match. Despite suffering for what must have seemed like an eternity, the rugged champion refused to give up.

Realizing that his career was in jeopardy, referee Earl Hebner called for the bell, ending the match, and proclaimed Michaels the winner. But before the ring



A look at the **SIMPLY RAVISHING** career of Rick Rude!

By Bill Banks



Erich name went hand-in-hand with the Alamo.

At the time, WCCW had just seceded from the National Wrestling Alliance (NWA), and promoters converted their North American Title into the Heavyweight Title to reflect their global expansion—a belt Rude had defeated “Iceman” King Parsons for in November of 1985. During his stay in Dallas—where he was managed by the man we know today as Paul Bearer—the Ravishing One not only turned back the challenges of the Von Erichs and the Dingo Warrior (who went on to become the Ultimate

Warrior), but captured their Television Title during his heavyweight reign as well.

After establishing himself as an up-and-coming star in WCCW, Rude opted to continue his climb up the ladder in the sport by entering the NWA in mid-1986 under the guidance of Paul Jones. The manager teamed his protege with “The Raging Bull” Manny Fernandez, and both grapplers captured the promotion’s Tag Team Title from the Rock ‘N’ Roll Express that December. Almost as quickly as the former arm wrestler had appeared in the NWA, he opted to enter

the "big time" of the World Wrestling Federation when the golden opportunity presented itself in early 1987.

Under the tutelage of Bobby "The Brain" Heenan, Rude would insist on inviting women up from the crowd prior to each match to give them a taste of what a "real man" was like. His chiseled frame not only left women in awe, but earned him the Jesse "The Body" Ventura Award at the 1987 Slammys for his impressive physique. In his first Pay-Per-View appearance that year at the *Survivor Series*, the Ravishing One teamed with fellow "Heenan Family" members Andre the Giant, the One Man Gang, King Kong Bundy and singles star Butch Reed to defeat the combination of Hulk Hogan, Bam Bam Bigelow, Paul Orndorff, Don Muraco and Ken Patera.

Following that November event, Rude's pre-match antics with female fans would turn against him, when he made the mistake of singling out Cheryl Roberts—wife of Jake "The Snake" Roberts. After learning the identity of her husband, the cocky superstar erupted into a tirade that attracted the ire of "the Snake". What followed was months of taunting by Rude—often bearing the likeness of Cheryl on his wrestling tights—and a *WrestleMania IV* Federation Title tournament match where both superstars eliminated each other via double disqualification.

While many thought his personal war with Jake Roberts went unsettled, Rude shifted his attention to capturing Federation gold in the form of the Intercontinental Title—a belt then held by former nemesis the Ultimate Warrior. In order to antagonize the Warrior into granting him a shot at the title, Rude ignited his enemy's hatred by using the champion's likeness on the back end of his tights in much the same way as he had with Cheryl Roberts'. The brash superstar needed to lobby no further, as he had

his shot for the Intercontinental belt at *WrestleMania V*. While Rude was able to walk out that night in Atlantic City, New Jersey, the new titlist, he dropped the championship



back to the Warrior just five months later at *SummerSlam '89*.

After captaining his own '89 *Survivor Series* team—consisting of the Ravishing One, Mr. Perfect and the Rougeau Brothers—known as the "Rude Brood" in a win against Roddy Piper, Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka and the Bushwhackers—collectively labeled "Roddy's Rowdies"—the former Intercontinental Champion engaged in several matches against Piper and Snuka in the upcoming months. However, all roads led back to the inevitable meeting with the Warrior... this time inside a steel cage for the Federation Title at *SummerSlam '90*.

Subsequent to failing to take home the gold at that August event, Rude left the spotlight of the Federation to pursue other interests, including a stop in World Championship Wrestling and numerous tours of Japan. During this duration away from the "big time", he suffered a severe back injury in 1994 while competing in

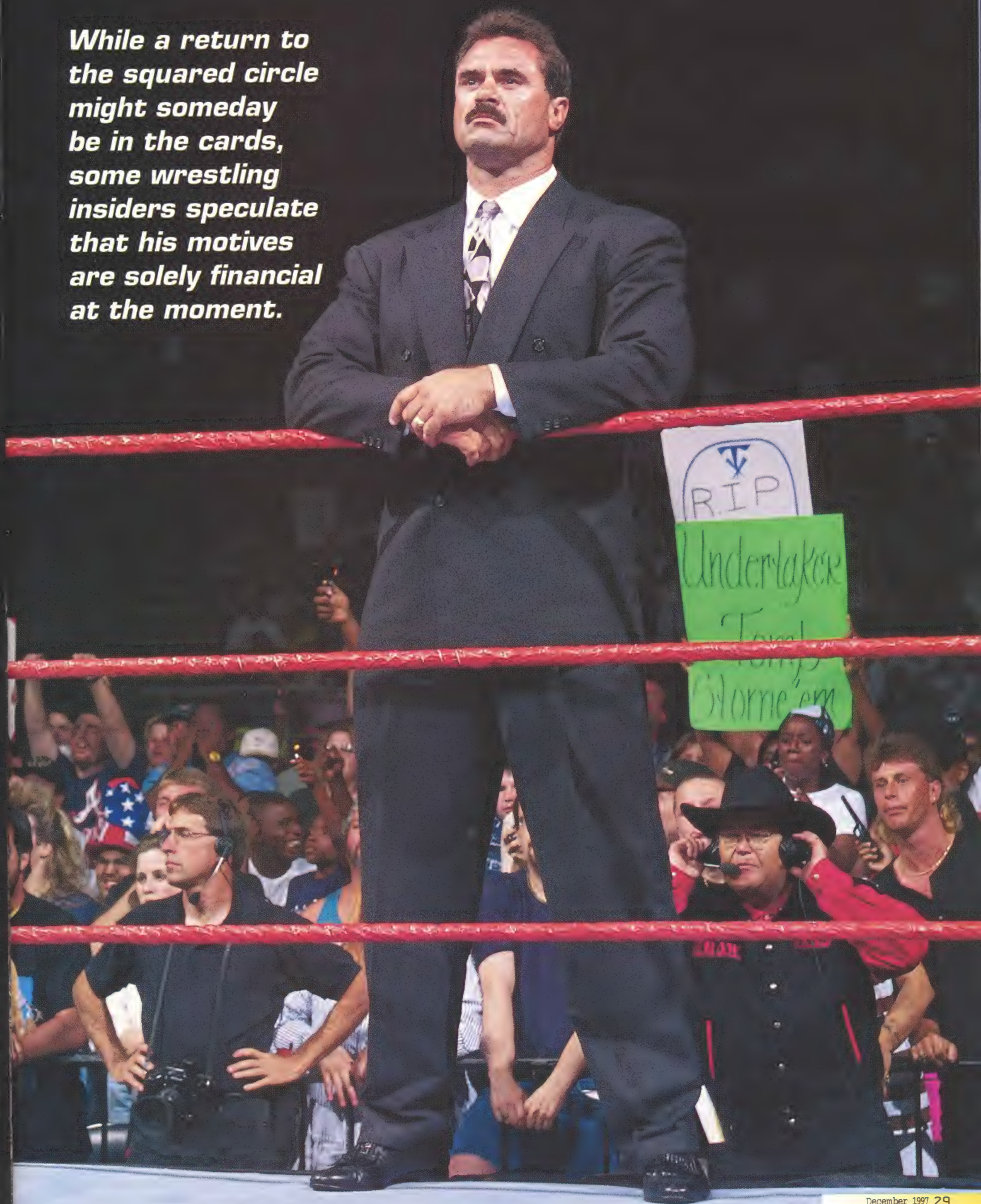
the Far East... a predicament which eventually forced him to the sidelines to face the possibility of retirement. After seeing numerous specialists, Rude opted to put his wrestling career on hold and instead tried his hand at various roles outside the squared circle—such as a career in acting and as a color commentator with Extreme Championship Wrestling.

Recently, the former Intercontinental Champion made a surprise return to the Federation during an episode of *RAW IS WAR* this past August—assisting Shawn Michaels in a win over Mankind. The following week in the War Zone, Rude proclaimed himself the Federation's version of an "insurance salesman" and stated his premium services would go to the highest bidder. Following this announcement, the Ravishing One interfered in a tag team melee featuring the Heartbreak Kid and Hunter Hearst-Helmsley against the Undertaker and Mankind—setting up the Man from the Dark Side so Shawn could bloody the phenom with a chair. Questions still remained at the time as to whether it was Michaels, Hunter or perhaps ANOTHER benefactor who paid the premium!

Now content to continue offering his "insurance" to any superstar willing to pay the price, Rude most likely enjoys the steady increase in his bank balance. While a return to the squared circle might someday be in the cards, some wrestling insiders speculate that his motives are solely financial at the moment. He remains a proven superstar in sports-entertainment based on the influence his career has had on officials and superstars alike.

And when it comes time to "Cut the Music!" on his career, fans will certainly have no trouble remembering what stamp this self-proclaimed "real man" left on the Federation. **WF**

While a return to the squared circle might someday be in the cards, some wrestling insiders speculate that his motives are solely financial at the moment.



HAS CHYNA BECOME THE "ODD MAN" OUT?

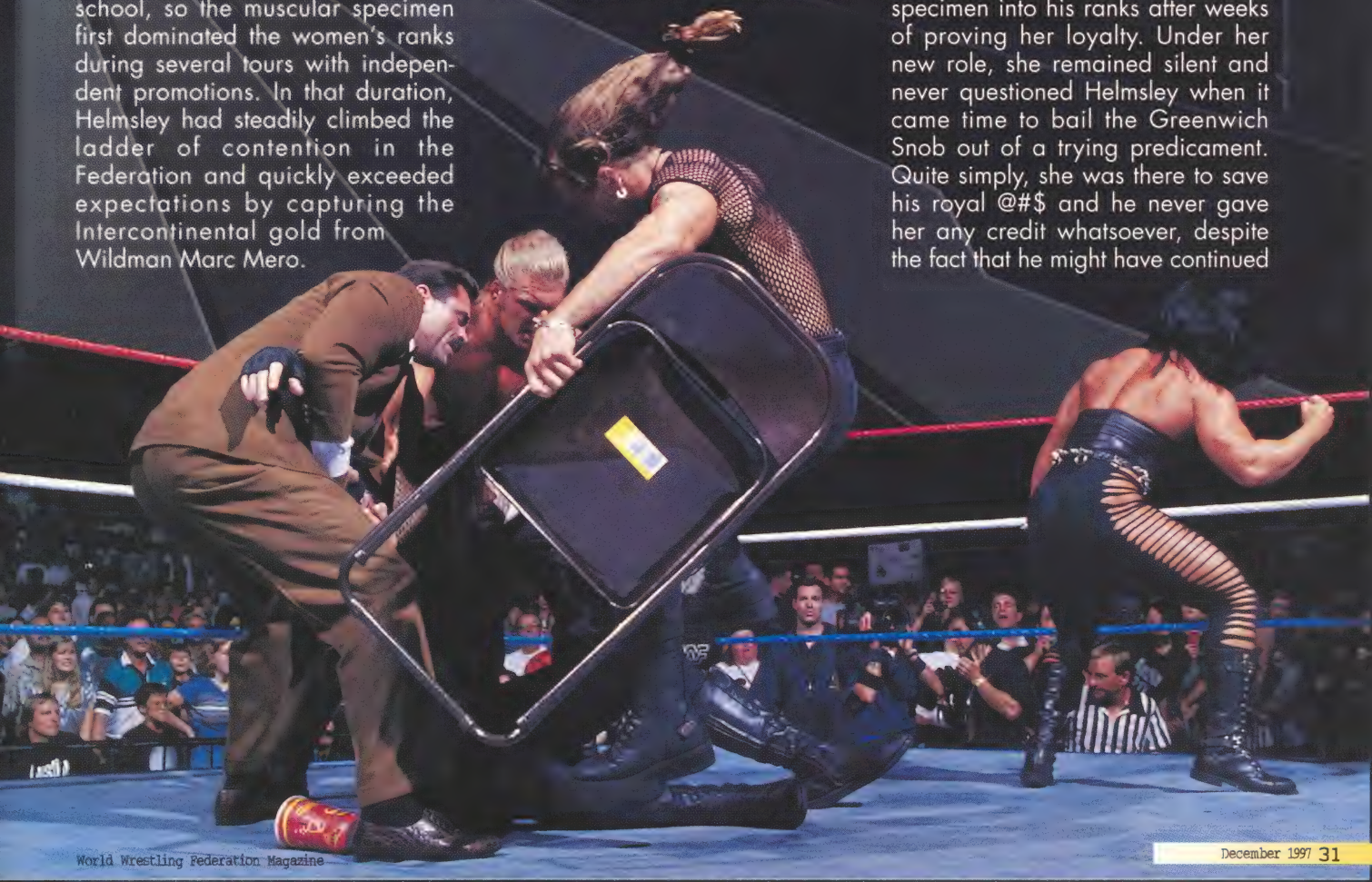
relative ease. In those months under the legendary grappler, reaching the "bar" set by Triple H was not only a possible ultimate end, but perhaps proving it to the Greenwich native in person as well.

With a healthy donation of blood and sweat, Chyna was able to walk away from the wrestling school with a masters degree in the art of pain—possibly attaining the same "full honors" as the prized role model who had gone on to capture the attention of the "Titan brass" in the World Wrestling Federation. However, entering the "big time" might prove to be just as tough as surviving Kowalski's school, so the muscular specimen first dominated the women's ranks during several tours with independent promotions. In that duration, Helmsley had steadily climbed the ladder of contention in the Federation and quickly exceeded expectations by capturing the Intercontinental gold from Wildman Marc Mero.

During his journey to the top, he had also seemingly grown tired of the men who served as his "bodyguards"—as Mr. Perfect and Mr. Hughes were quickly disposed of when Helmsley exacted the necessary mileage out of them. Whether it was their attempts to steal his spotlight or their possible inadequacies to protect him, both men found out the hard way that you either live up to Triple H's expectations... or you seek employment elsewhere. As luck would have it, perhaps Chyna saw this as her chance to gain her role model's attention, and subsequently burst from the audience to assist in his cause during a

match with Goldust at February's Final Four. In all likelihood, Hunter had heard the storied background of this muscular specimen, but getting the Greenwich Snob to accept her into his affluent lifestyle might prove a ceiling too tough to crack after giving up on the failures of Perfect and Hughes.

Despite claiming no link to Chyna, Hunter continued to witness her persistence into March, when on one occasion she attacked Marlena, was escorted by security out of the building... only to return to the arena once more that night! Finally, Hunter most likely had no choice but to accept the muscular specimen into his ranks after weeks of proving her loyalty. Under her new role, she remained silent and never questioned Helmsley when it came time to bail the Greenwich Snob out of a trying predicament. Quite simply, she was there to save his royal @\$\$ and he never gave her any credit whatsoever, despite the fact that he might have continued





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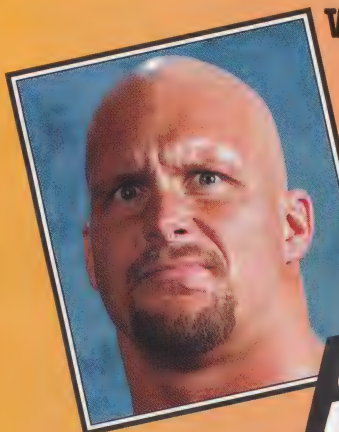


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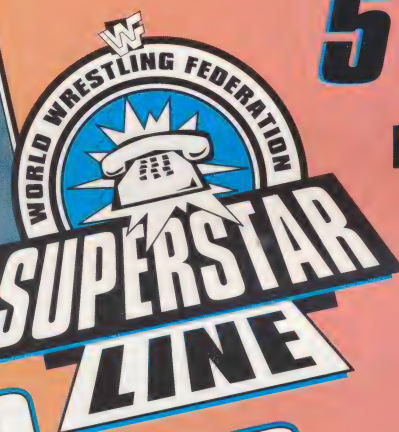
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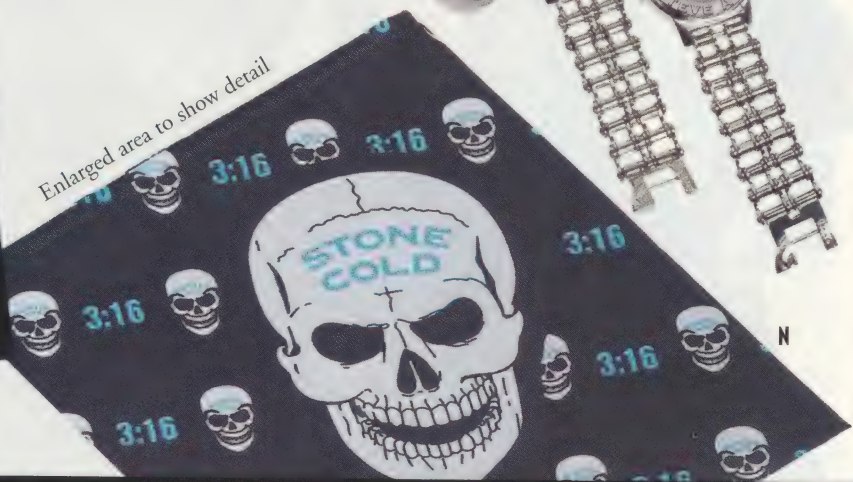
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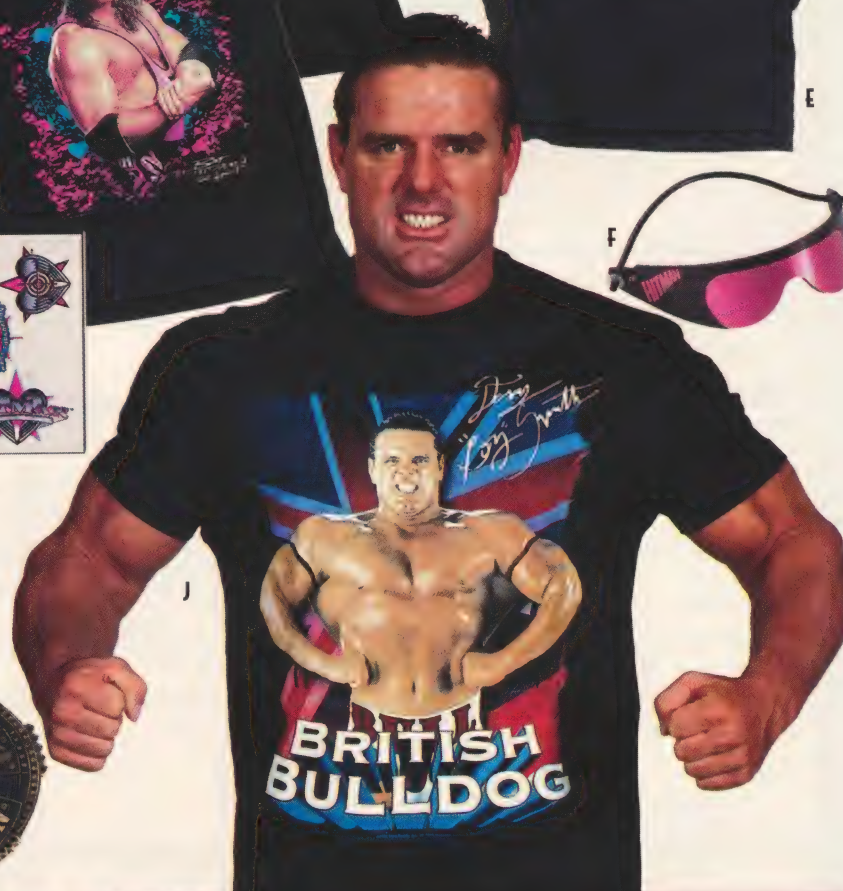
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 (Springfield, MA)	8	9	10	11 Doug Furnas	12	13
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TV
PG

Beginning on the morning of Sunday, August 4, I don't know who had it worse—Owen Hart or MRS. STEVE AUSTIN!!!

After he was dropped on his head courtesy of Owen Hart at SummerSlam, Stone Cold Steve Austin was BARRED from the World Wrestling Federation on the orders of Commissioner Slaughter. Whereas the fans of the Federation debated the controversial decision for weeks, the question that was first and foremost on this New Yawker's mind was: What does a rattlesnake do when he isn't allowed near a ring... or a microphone, for that matter? Does he just slither under the nearest rock and chill? Yeah, and Shawn Michaels can complete a sentence without the use of the word—I!!!

I mean, can you imagine poor MRS. Austin? Can you imagine having this LUNATIC hanging around the house—FULL-TIME?! I hope he didn't catch Kathie Lee Gifford's gig while

channel surfing in the morning. One Cody story would have certainly dropped him off the deep end—NEVER TO RETURN!!! What about Rosie? Do you think he caught that tub-o-goo? And if so, did he STUN the boob tube before she even made it into commercial?

Well, in an effort to answer these and many other questions, I recently caught up with the Ice Man to find out what he did during his summer vacation.



“Not that I ever tried to be a role model, or nothin’ like that, but to answer your question about what I did, I drank between a 12-pack and a case of beer a day, and I rode around in my four-wheeler!”

AUSTIN: Hey, if those people want to go out there and protect a deer, that’s fine. I can’t sit there and argue with everybody because my main focus is on rasslin’—that’s what I do! Real quickly, my point of view on animal protection and all that stuff—it’s a fact that if you don’t kill enough deer, they will overrun the highways or die of starvation because there is not a lot of rain where I hunt in Texas. If you don’t kill an adequate number of deer, then they are going to starve because they won’t have enough nutrition. If that’s the right that they want to stand up and believe in, that’s fine. But my right—and a right I’ve always had since day one—is that I always hunt to eat. I don’t kill anything that I don’t eat. Anything I kill goes right to my table. I respect what I kill. But, you’re damn right, I go huntin’ because I want to and I like it. Not everybody is for that, but Steve Austin is not for what everybody is for. I’m for what I’m for, and that’s the bottom line.

VENOM: Let’s get off this question, because I don’t feel like receiving a million letters on the topic. Going back to the days after your neck injury, what other possibilities and other options were you looking at had you been unable to wrestle again? What was going through your mind at the time?

AUSTIN: I really don’t know what I would have done. I know very easily I could have stepped in and done color commentary. I could do any kind of commentatin’... not just rasslin’, but any sport or any type of avenue I wanted to take. I think that I am articulate enough and well-spoken enough to do that. But—I might also have pursued some kind of movie-type deal. If I could not go back to the ring, that was very certainly one option. Beyond that, it was completely up in the air. I’d just as soon manage some big deer property or somethin’ like that. If I went into somethin’ like that, money wouldn’t be a concern for me because that would be somethin’ that would make me happy. It deals with somethin’ that I am interested in, and it’s manual labor, which is somethin’ that I have done my

whole life. Do you know about manual labor up there in your big “New Yawk,” Vic?

VENOM: I don’t believe in getting my hands dirty, no.

AUSTIN: Have you ever in your life sweated, Vic?

VENOM: Once... I think... when George was thinkin’ about movin’ the Yankees out of the Bronx!

AUSTIN: You are some piece of work, son.

VENOM: Thank you.

AUSTIN: Now get the hell out of here before I whip your Yankee @\$! **WF**



WF

WHY OWEN HART SHOWED MERCY... AND MAY NEVER DO IT AGAIN!

I can't get the picture out of my mind. My most vivid memory of 1997—and maybe for years to come—is Stone Cold Steve Austin's spine compressing while in the grips of a Tombstone Piledriver delivered by Owen Hart at SummerSlam. For a brief second, it seemed to me that Austin's spirit hovered above his crumpled body.

Also looking down on Austin was his opponent with a bewildered look on his face. Perhaps Owen also saw this life force above his fallen foe because the Intercontinental Champion inexplicably stopped the assault and momentarily contemplated his actions. But he paid for his caring with his title, as the injured challenger seized the opening and won the belt from a distracted champion. Why did Owen Hart stop his assault? Perhaps it was the thought of the possible consequences of his actions and a true compassion for his fellow man. Regardless of his motives, a sympathetic Hart could be broken when an injured rattlesnake slithers back, looking for revenge.

Those few moments must have seemed like an

eternity for the youngest Hart with thoughts of the blame and scorn that would surely have accompanied the termination of one of the Federation's biggest stars in its history. He may have also thought about Austin's two young children, who rely on him for support or perhaps his own wife and children and how they would cope if the shoe was on the other foot. But why would the man who won a Slammy for nearly ending the career of Shawn Michaels in early 1996 feel differently now? Perhaps Owen Hart does not want his legacy to be that of a "career-ender". He would like to be known and respected as a great technical wrestler and a true professional. Didn't Owen display professionalism by showing concern for Stone Cold?



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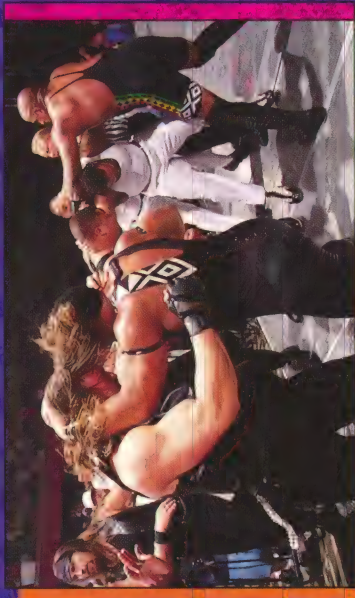


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Federation matchmakers will probably throw these two into the ring as soon as possible, with the promotion centering on revenge.

Will the Federation be happy if one or both men suffer a debilitating injury? Of course not. But they will hold some responsibility if they don't tell the other side of the story that Owen Hart did feel compassion for Steve Austin at *SummerSlam* and was overcome with emotion after the match. In my opinion, by only telling the story of revenge, the Federation could be putting two of their most valuable commodities on a collision course with permanent injury.

Years after being paralyzed from the neck down, former New England Patriots wide receiver Darryl Stingily forgave Jack Tatum, telling him that his injuries were part of the physical game they played. Despite the loss of a family member and a national hero, the family of Korean boxer Duk Koo Kim forgave Ray Mancini for his role in the brutal death of their loved one, as they said it was a risk all boxers take when they enter the ring. Will either Tatum or Mancini ever be able to forget these horrible incidents? It is highly unlikely, with the same going for both Owen Hart, who will forever carry this memory, and Stone Cold Steve Austin, who will bear the scars of this injury for the rest of his life. In my opinion, however, the remorse felt by Owen Hart should be the main story, not the revenge desired by a wounded soldier who may not have all the facts. **WF**



(Far left) Twice in his career, Owen Hart has almost ended the careers of Federation superstars. In 1995 it was Shawn Michaels, who collapsed after a lethal mix of post-concussion syndrome and punishment by the Slammy Award winner. (Above) This past August, Owen faced the same circumstances, but this time showed mercy to Steve Austin. (Left) After the events that unfolded at *SummerSlam*, many wonder if the Calgary native is a self-described ruthless competitor or a compassionate family man.



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BY KEITH ELLIOT GREENBERG

SCOTT PUTSKI VS. 'TOO SEXY' BRIAN CHRISTOPHER

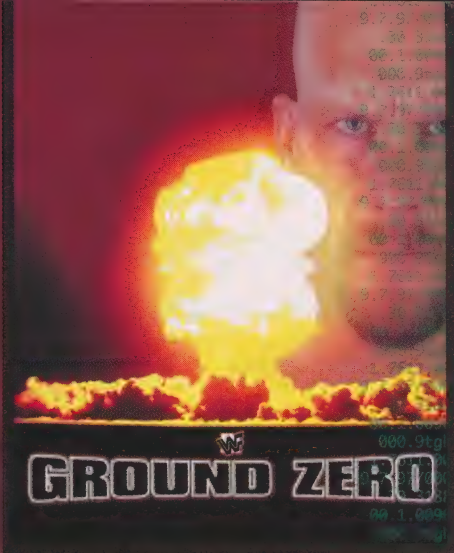


Christopher attempted to jump Putski at the bell, but Scott fired back with a clothesline in the corner and a hiptoss, eventually depositing "Too Sexy" on the arena floor. After Putski—the son of World Wrestling Federation Hall of Famer Ivan Putski—took Christopher to the mat with a leg scissors, Too Sexy positioned himself beside his foe, hooked a leg around Scott's lower limb and drove the tough Texan's face into the canvas.

Putski ended up on the arena floor. Before he could collect his senses and rebound, Christopher vaulted over the ropes and somersaulted onto his rival, taking out Scott's left knee. Putski labored to return to the ring, but was incapable of standing, and Christopher was awarded the match via injury. From the announcer's table, Jerry "The King" Lawler—purportedly Brian Christopher's father—gleefully joined the victor in the ring, then took the microphone to heap scorn on Putski, as he was carted out of the arena on a gurney.



MINIS ACTION MAX MINI VS. EL TORITO



There were humorous moments in this wild affair. After the referee failed to discipline Torito for biting his foe twice on the rear, the feisty Max chomped on the official's backside. As the referee chased after the "world's smallest athlete," Max scurried to the announcer's table, hopped into Jerry "The King" Lawler's lap and sampled his crown, much to the chagrin of the Memphis legend.

But the laughing ended when Torito took down Max in the ring with a thrust kick.

Feeling confident, Torito then attempted a bodyslam, but his opponent twisted around and landed on his feet and then stunned the larger wrestler with an arm drag. Taking refuge at ringside, Torito was soon flattened on the floor by Max springing himself backward off the second rope.

Despite the force of impact, both wrestlers were swift in the ring, where Torito tried executing a high back bodydrop to Max, who held on tight and rolled his opponent over for the triumph.



WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION BRET "HIT MAN" HART VS. THE PATRIOT

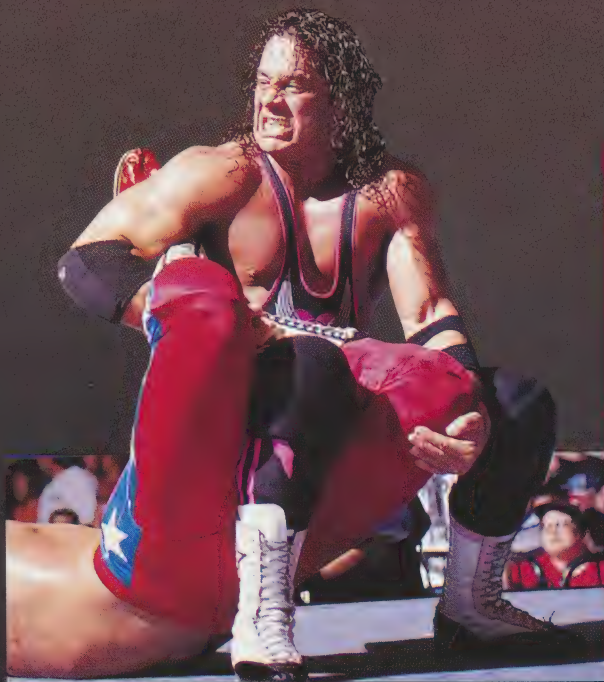
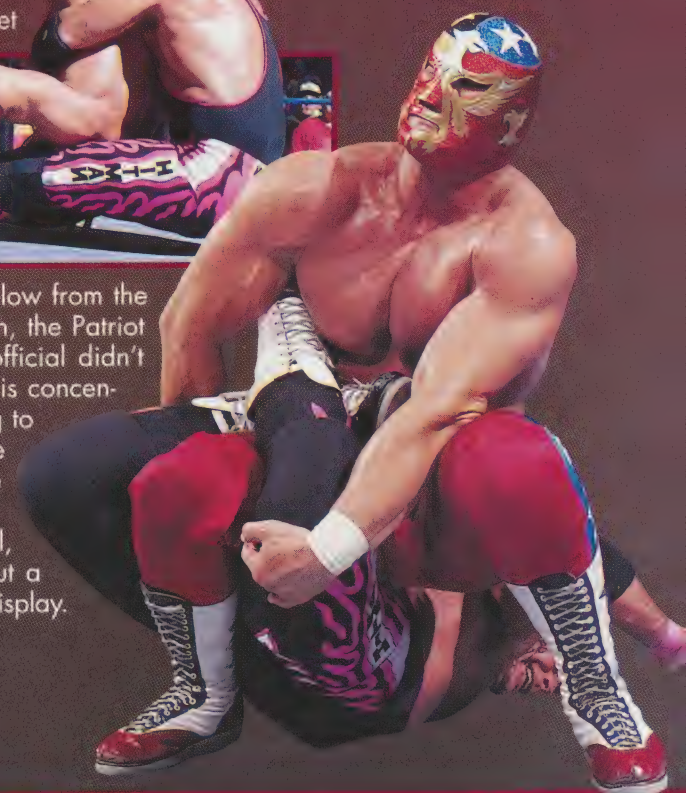
Having recently defeated Hart in a non-title tie-up, the Patriot—a World Wrestling Federation rookie—was gunning for an upset. Well aware of this, Hart took an early lead, dangling the Patriot from the corner of the ring and stomping on his chest and throat. The hooded challenger replied with a dropkick and clothesline that sent Bret over the top rope.

Viewing the Sharpshooter as his ultimate goal, Hart targeted his opponent's ankle, hoping to weaken the masked man's legs. Wrapping the Patriot's limbs around the ring post, the Hit Man clamped on a debilitating figure-four leglock while hanging upside down outside the squared circle.

Amazingly, the Patriot was soon back in the fight, harming Bret with a DDT. The challenger then tried running the ropes, but he was tripped by Hart's ally, the British Bulldog. A short time later, after the Patriot executed his fabled Uncle Slam, the Bulldog broke up the pinfall.

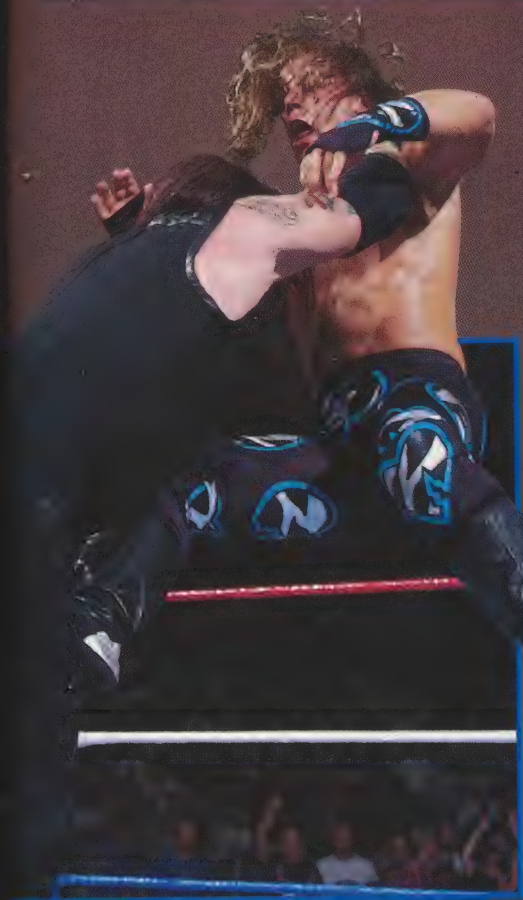
The Patriot left the ring to confront the Bulldog—and was backed by none other than Vader, who pounded the Hit Man at ringside. Charged up, the Patriot went wild on Bret, delivering a soaring blow from the top rope, atomic drop and suplex. As he whaled on Hart, though, the Patriot elbowed the referee, knocking him to the canvas. The groggy official didn't notice Hart falling to the Uncle Slam. But the arbiter did regain his concentration in time to see the Patriot applying a Sharpshooter. Refusing to be defeated by his own move, Bret reversed the maneuver. The Patriot reached for the ropes, but couldn't quite make it. He dropped to the mat, giving in to the painful submission hold.

But Hart wasn't finished. He tortured the Patriot after the bell, grabbed his American flag and choked him with it, punching out a World Wrestling Federation official who tried ending the shameful display.





was knocked out—this time by Helmsley. Shawn hit the Undertaker with Sweet Chin Music, tying him up in the ropes. Undertaker broke free and executed a Tombstone on Hunter. Several World Wrestling Federation officials were attacked, along with numerous wrestlers who tried to help. As nearly a dozen competitors held back Michaels outside the ring, Undertaker shot over the ropes, flattening the entire group. **WF**



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history has often shown, those on the home front in times of war look to heroes for moral support. The former drill instructor was an ideal candidate for America to rally around during the Persian Gulf War. But the crafty veteran instead decided to sleep with the enemy and join forces with men representing the American opposition in the forthcoming war. Did Slaughter crack under pressure and make a bad decision when he sided with Iraqi sympathizers? In my opinion, he tried to make a fast buck by playing on the emotions of Americans and then watched it backfire and burn him up. While he became Federation Champion during this dark period, he lost the respect and admiration of his once loyal fans and never could retrieve it during his active career.

Nearly five years after his departure from active duty, Slaughter returned to the Federation with a promotion

and a second chance.

But, are we seeing glimpses of the mistakes he made in the past beginning to resurface? Is it purely coincidental that the Hart Foundation has

continued to run amok, constantly interfering in matches, especially when Bret's Federation Championship is in jeopardy? Have any suspensions been handed down to this blatantly anti-American faction? Not since the one-time American turncoat has been minding the store.

The only action Slaughter has taken against the Hart Foundation was to make Canadian sympathizer Brian Pillman wear a dress on RAW IS WAR in order to fulfill his contractual obligation. Although embarrassing, the "Loose Cannon" has hardly been controlled by this act. While apparently allowing those representing Canada to continue to run rampant, could Slaughter perhaps still harbor ill feelings toward his homeland? Perhaps in the form of his treatment of the Patriot.

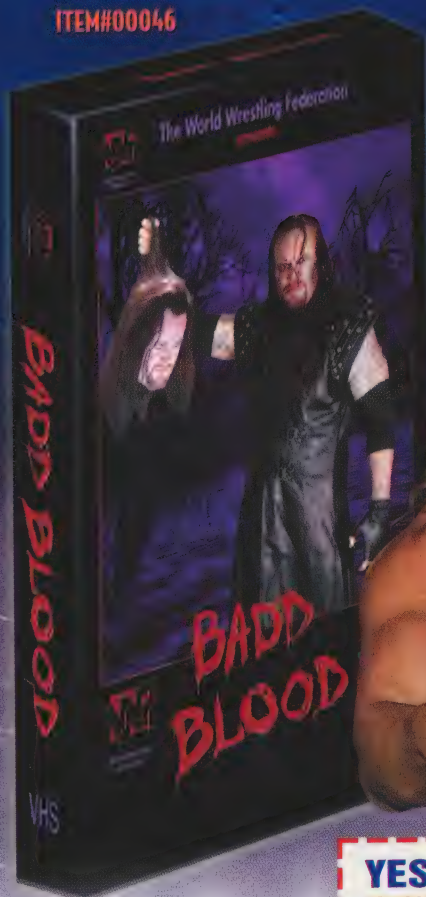
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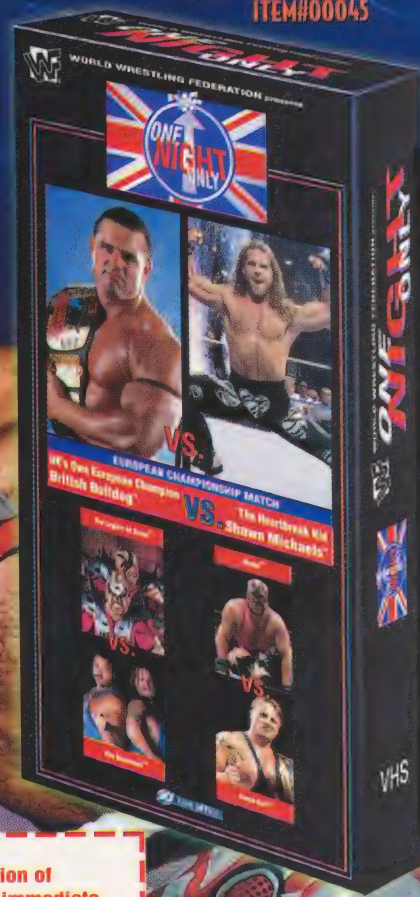
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"How many times do I have to say it? Whether you like me or you don't, I am the 'Grand Slam' winner and now I have achieved immortality!"

-Shawn Michaels-

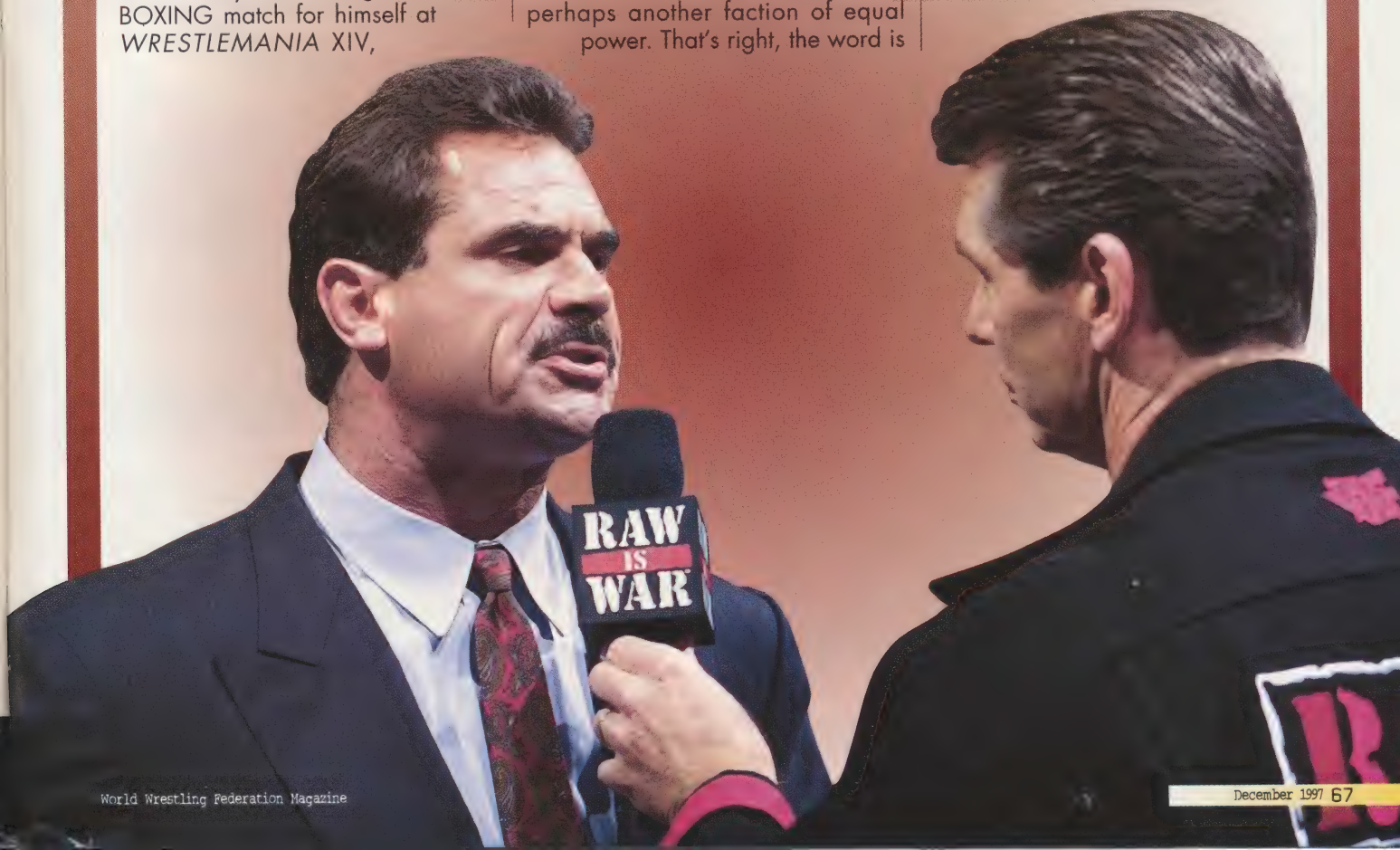


BARRED FROM the BACK

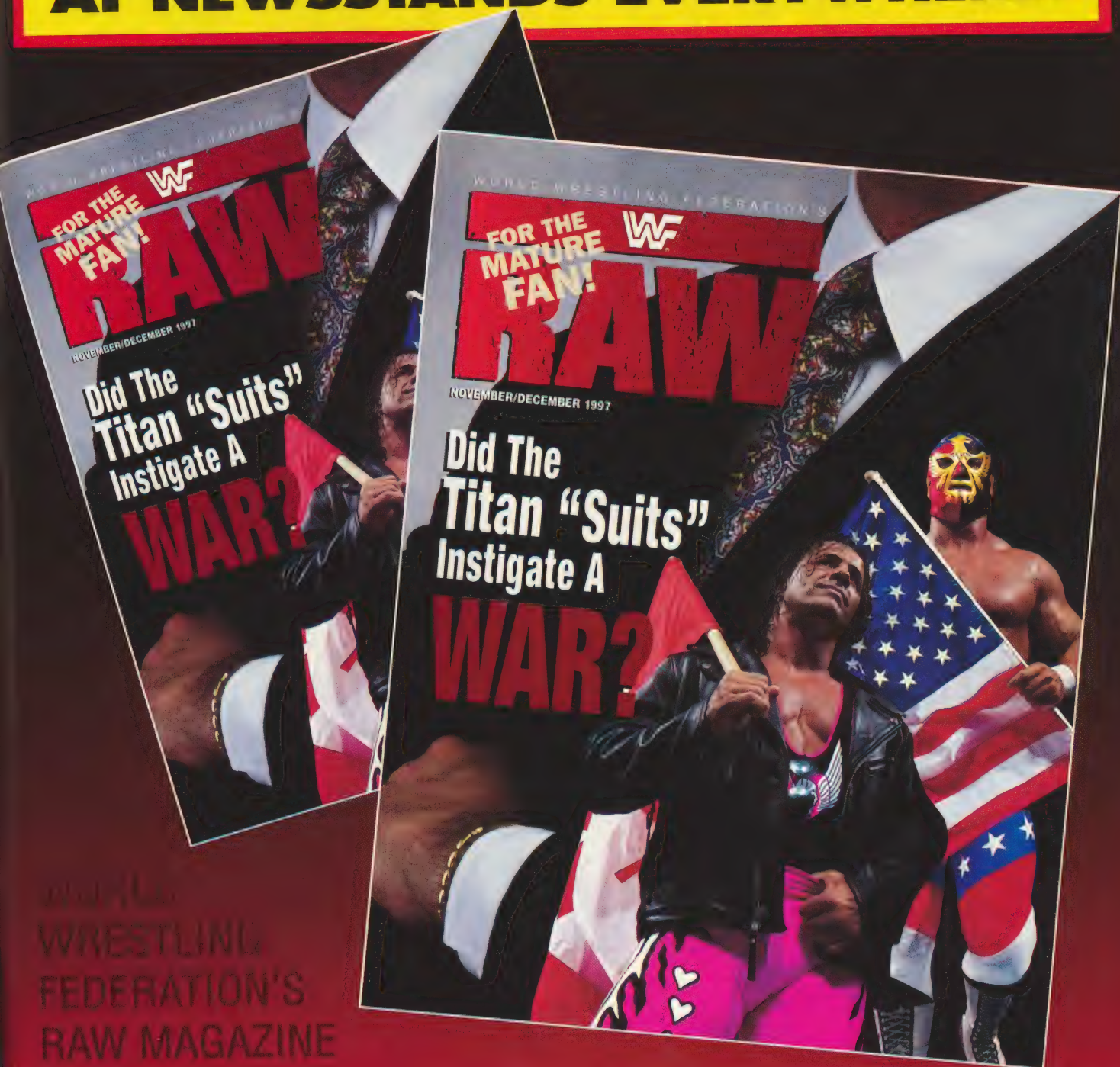
In the words of the late great Jackie Gleason—"AND AWAY WE GO!"... Look for the "OUTLAWS", a/k/a SHAWN MICHAELS and HUNTER HEARST-HELMSLEY, to increase the "ELITE" in numbers in the weeks to come. That's right, my informers have informed me, the INFORMER, that two new members are slated to join MICHAELS and HELMSLEY in their quest for truth, justice and THEIR WAY, before the calendar reads 1998... If you aren't convinced by now that MARC MERO found "the edge" during his time off due to rehabilitation, YOU SOON WILL BE! According to my sources, MERO is now looking toward the boxing world for "formidable" opponents with whom he can stand toe-to-toe. AND if you aren't knocked out by that punch alone, one of my informants went so far as to tell me, the INFORMER, that MERO may be looking to book a BOXING match for himself at WRESTLEMANIA XIV,

rather than a wrestling one!... My sources tell me that there may very well soon be another new member added to the HART FOUNDATION. Even though new details are coming in daily, as of press time all I can tell you is that this individual IS currently in the World Wrestling Federation—AND probably the least likely candidate that you would ever think to see in pink 'n' black!... Word in the ring has it that legendary Japanese promoter GIANT BABA is considering inviting BLACKJACK WINDHAM & BLACKJACK BRADSHAW to compete in the prestigious annual All-Japan Tag Team Tournament that is to take place in December... With the overthrow of the Kommandant, rumors are running rampant that JACKAL may be looking to increase the power of the TRUTH COMMISSION in numbers. No, it doesn't look as if there will be a recruiting anytime soon, but rather a merger with perhaps another faction of equal power. That's right, the word is

that none other than FAAROOQ of the NATION OF DOMINATION has been meeting behind closed doors with JACKAL, possibly discussing an alignment of power that could be detrimental to the entire ranks of the Federation!... The "MEMPHIS MAFIA"?!!! Is JERRY "THE KING" LAWLER looking to form his own band of good ol' Southern boys in an attempt to transform the World Wrestling Federation into "Rasslin'—The Way It Oughta Be"? My informants tell me, the Informer, that not only is LAWLER attempting to "brainwash" current Federation superstars into joining his cause, but he may also be attempting to influence various other competitors of rival groups!... Looking for that "special" holiday gift for the man who has everything? How about investing in... A PIECE OF THE RUDE!!!!... Until next time... this has been... the INFORMER... **WF**



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(Top left)

Each year, LL Cool J rewards successful students with a trip to his West Milford, New Jersey, camp.

(Lower left)

Special guest Ahmed Johnson teamed up with LL, along with (top right) comedian Dean Edwards, NBA star Sam Perkins and young rapper Shortee Red.

(Below)

On the mike, the man from Pearl River spoke about the importance of staying in school and avoiding trouble.





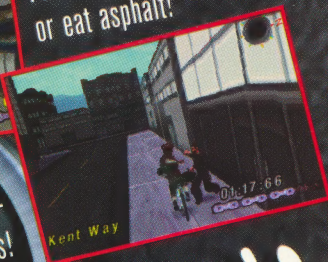
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